

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 HA-05 SIG-03 PM-05
NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 AID-05
/085 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/PAB:DBARCHARD:DE
APPROVED BY NEA/PAB:JACoon
EA/TIMBS:HMEINHEIT (SUBSTANCE)
HA/ORM:GMETSON (SUBSTANCE)
NEA/P:DUNDELAND (SUBSTANCE)
-----066385 110333Z /65

P R 102317Z MAY 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY DACCA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY RANGOON PRIORITY
INFO USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PEPR, SREF, BG, BM

SUBJECT: PRESS GUIDANCE ON MUSLIMS FLEEING BANGLADESH

WE HAVE PREPARED THE FOLLOWING CONTINGENCY PRESS GUIDANCE
FOR USE ON AN IF-ASKED BASIS. TO DATE, THOUGH, WE HAVE
RECEIVED NO PRESS INQUIRIES ON THE SUBJECT. ADDRESSEES ARE
AUTHORIZED TO DRAW ON THE GUIDANCE IN DISCUSSIONS WITH
HOST GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. BEGIN GUIDANCE:

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Q: ARE REPORTS TRUE THAT MORE THAN 70,000 MUSLIMS OF SOUTH
ASIAN ORIGIN HAVE BEEN FORCED OUT OF BURMA INTO BANGLADESH?

A: WE KNOW THAT MANY THOUSANDS OF PERSONS FROM BURMA HAVE
RECENTLY ENTERED SOUTHERN BANGLADESH FROM BURMA'S ARAKAN
STATE, BUT WE DO NOT KNOW HOW MANY. THE BANGLADESHIS SET
THE NUMBER AT ROUGHLY 100,000, MANY MORE THAN THE FIGURE

GIVEN BY THE GOVERNMENT OF BURMA.

Q: WHO ARE THESE PEOPLE?

A: THE PEOPLE ARE SOUTH ASIAN MUSLIMS, MOST OF WHOM HAD MIGRATED FROM WHAT IS NOW BANGLADESH TO BURMA. THE BANGLADESHIS CLAIM THAT MOST HAVE LIVED IN BURMA FOR GENERATIONS, WHILE THE BURMESE SAY THEY ARE RECENT IMMIGRANTS.

Q: ARE THEY BEING FORCED OUT OF BURMA?

A: THE GOVERNMENT OF BURMA SAYS IT IS REQUIRING UNDOCUMENTED, RECENT IMMIGRANTS WHO ARE NOT CITIZENS OF BURMA TO LEAVE. AS INDICATED ABOVE, THE GOVERNMENT OF BANGLADESH CLAIMS THEY ARE LONGTIME RESIDENTS OF BURMA AND SHOULD REMAIN.

Q: IS THE U.S. GOVERNMENT DOING ANYTHING ABOUT THIS?

A: WE ARE AWARE OF THE ISSUE AND ARE NATURALLY CONCERNED OVER THE HUMAN SUFFERING INVOLVED. WE WOULD HOPE THAT THE TWO GOVERNMENTS CAN RESOLVE THE PROBLEM BETWEEN THEMSELVES. REPRESENTATIVES OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS HAVE VISITED THE AREA TO DETERMINE IF THERE IS NEED FOR INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE. NEITHER GOVERNMENT HAS ASKED FOR OUR ASSISTANCE. END GUIDANCE. VANCE
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INSTRUCTIONS, REFUGEES, MOSLEMS, THE PRESS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780572/aaaacjcr.tel
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 453530a1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Reference: n/a
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Review Content Flags:
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TAGS: PEPR, SREF, SOPN, BG, BM
To: DACCA RANGOON
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/453530a1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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